

Since the very beginning of its existence, Israel has been a vital ally of the United States, enjoying a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect. America and Israel shall remain close friends for years to come, particularly as Israel continues to seek peace with her neighbors. On the Jewish Calendar, Israel's Independence Day falls on the 5th of Iyar, corresponding this year with May 12, 2005. This day is a joyous time to reflect with pride on the work of the men and women who knew that one day the dream of the State of Israel would become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in extending warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate this 57th year of Israel's independence. I wish them peace and prosperity in the years to come, *kein yehi ratzon*.

RECOGNIZING JUDY GOFF, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER EMERITUS ALAMEDA LABOR COUNCIL

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judy Goff who served, from 1999 to 2005, as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Alameda Labor Council, based in Oakland, California. She was the first woman elected to lead a major labor council in California and was also the first woman elected statewide President of SEIU Local 535.

Judy Goff's leadership in the labor movement is exemplary. She has consistently supported labor solidarity by speaking at numerous rallies, walking countless picket lines, and being arrested for the cause of worker's rights.

She is a founding member of the Labor Immigrant Organizing Network, which initiated a successful resolution to change the National AFL-CIO policy on immigrant workers' rights. Ms. Goff has never hesitated to put herself and the labor movement squarely on the side of the downtrodden and oppressed. She is a staunch supporter of workers' civil rights. During her leadership, the Alameda Labor Council opposed police action against workers and protesters and was instrumental in changing police tactics and policy to insure safety and respect.

Increased diversity in the leadership of the Alameda Labor Council is another example of Judy Goff's consistent voice and steady leadership to represent the interest of all workers, locally, nationally, and internationally. She has devoted her efforts to improving labor education at all levels, including service on the California State Assembly Speaker's Commission on Labor Education.

In keeping with her ongoing interest of economic parity for workers, she spearheaded the successful passage of a Living Wage Ordinance in the cities of Berkeley, Hayward, and Oakland as well as the Port of Oakland.

On June 10, 2005, the Central Labor Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO will bestow its Lifetime Achievement Award on Judy Goff as Unionist of the Year. I join the Council and Ms. Goff's friends, family and admirers in appreciation for her many years of dedicated

service and congratulate her on a distinguished career in the labor movement.

SIXTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY: COLUMBIAN AWARDED NAVY CROSS AT THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the tremendous sacrifice of Thomas Marvin "Tim" Owen, Jr., who as a Water Tender First Class, United States Navy, served on the USS *Butler*. The USS *Butler* was a destroyer that participated in many important naval battles in World War II. The *Butler* served as an escort ship near Casablanca, North Africa, and Dakar, French West Africa. She participated in the Sicily Invasion, Battle of the Seine, Invasion of Northern France at the Battle of Normandy and the Battle of Okinawa.

On May 25, 1945 at the Battle of Okinawa, bombs from a suicide plane exploded under the ship blowing out steam lines and flooding the forward fire room. The USS *West Virginia* stood by to assist the *Butler* until power was restored. During this time, two more suicide planes attacked the *Butler*.

Thomas Marvin Owen, Jr. was awarded the Navy Cross for heroic actions in this engagement. Even though he was mortally wounded, he continued to perform his duty at his post and aided other sailors on the *Butler*. He and eight shipmates were killed in the engagement and were buried at sea. His name is inscribed on the Honolulu Memorial Tablets for those missing in action or buried at sea.

JONATHAN WALLACE KROART  
MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Michael Galbraith Kroart and Mrs. Elizabeth Sparrow Kroart on the birth of their child, Master Jonathan Wallace Kroart. Jonathan was born on Thursday, May 5, 2005 and weighed 7 pounds and 14 ounces. My wife Faye and the entire Etheridge family join me in wishing Michael and Elizabeth great happiness during this very special time in their lives.

As a father of three, I know the immeasurable pride and rewarding challenges that children bring into your life. Their innocence keeps you young-at-heart. Through their inquiring minds and wide-eyed wonder, they show you the world in a fresh, new way and change your perspective on life. A little miracle, a new baby holds all the potential of what human beings can achieve.

I welcome young Jonathan into the world and wish Michael and Elizabeth all the best as they steer him through all of the joys and challenges that life brings.

CONGRATULATING STEVEN SHARFSTEIN ON HIS INSTALLATION AS AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Steven S. Sharfstein on his installation as President of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Sharfstein is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Sheppard Pratt Health System in Baltimore, where he has worked for nearly 20 years. Located in Towson, Maryland, Sheppard Pratt Health System is a private, non-profit behavioral health organization with over 1,500 employees. Founded in 1891, Sheppard Pratt is the area's largest behavioral health care organization. The hospital's reputation as one of the leading organizations in the field of mental health is known not only in Maryland, but throughout the national and international mental communities.

Dr. Sharfstein is also Clinical Professor and Vice Chair of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland. A practicing clinician for more than 30 years, he is best known for his research and writing on the economics of practice and public mental health policy. Over 13 years, he has held a variety of positions at the National Institute of Mental Health, including Director of Mental Health Service Programs. This month, Dr. Sharfstein completes on May 27th his one year term as President-Elect of the American Psychiatric Association and begins his term as the 132nd President of the APA, the country's oldest national medical specialty society.

Dr. Sharfstein has established himself as an active leader in his profession and has worked to eliminate the stigma associated with mental health treatment. Throughout his years at Sheppard Pratt, Dr. Sharfstein's work has been truly inspirational in advancing the fight for mental health parity.

Dr. Sharfstein has served the American Psychiatric Association as chairman of the Budget Committee, the Committee on Managed Care, and the Ethics Appeals Board. He has also served as co-chair on the Committee on Psychiatric Reimbursement, as well as vice-chair of the Joint Commission on Government Relations.

A graduate of Dartmouth College and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dr. Sharfstein trained in psychiatry at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center in Boston from 1969 to 1972. He also received a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government in 1973 and a certificate from the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School in 1991. He was Secretary of the American Psychiatric Association from 1991 to 1995 and its Vice President from 2002 to 2004.

Through his outstanding leadership at Sheppard Pratt Health System, Dr. Sharfstein has already made numerous invaluable contributions to the quality of psychiatric care. I look forward to continuing to work with him to advance the cause of quality mental health treatment, and I congratulate him on this achievement.